20th March 1929]

Religious and Charitable Endowments

Nominations to Negapatam and Tanjore Temple Committees.

*1795 Q.—Mr. C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government nominated the members of the Negapatam and Tanjore Temple Committees in 1927–28 only for a period of six months;

(b) whether it is a fact that by the expiry of the said period of six months the respective temple committees had prepared the electoral rolls, arranged for elections and even fixed the dates for nomination of candidates and election;

(c) whether it is a fact that the temple committees were prepared to have elections; and

(d) whether it is a fact that the Government have again nominated the members of the said temple committees; and if so, why?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) & (c) The Government have no definite information but have reasons to think that the electoral rolls were ready.

(d) Yes. Nominations were made to the Tanjore Temple Committee because the Committee or the Hindu Religious Endowments Board could not provide the cost of holding elections. As regards the Negapatam Temple Committee, the Board first recommended its abolition as it failed to allot members for the different circles forming the electoral area and as it was not working properly even otherwise. The Government, however, preferred to form a new committee with appointed members.

Bills

Introduction of Bills relating to Marumakkattayam system of law.

*1796 Q.—Mr. K. MADHAVAN NAYAR: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether Mr. Karant, M.L.C., and Mr. K. Madhavan Nayar, M.L.C., have applied to the Government for sanction of the Governor-General to introduce Bills relating to the Marumakkattayam system of law;

(b) what the last occasion was when the Government conducted an enquiry into the working of the Marumakkattayam system; and

(c) whether the Government intend to appoint a committee to enquire into and report about the evils of the Marumakkattayam system and the changes that should be made in that system?

A.—(a) Yes; and the sanction asked for was accorded and communicated to the hon. Members in question.

(b) & (c) Opinions were collected on the occasions when Bills were proposed on the subject, but as no such Bill was introduced in the Council, Government so far had no occasion to constitute any committee of enquiry or to formulate a definite opinion.

Mr. K. P. RAMAN MENON:—"Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to appoint a committee as soon as possible?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"I shall consider the suggestion."